1922

PRESS BULLETIN No. 335 *January 25, 1922*

UNIVERSITY OF FLORIDA
AGRICULTURAL EXPERIMENT STATION

IMPERIAL BUREAU OF MYCOLOGY 3 MAR. 1922

SPRAYING TO CONTROL MELANOSE

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Melanose russet can be distinguished from rust-mite russet by its raised appearance and sandpaper-like feel to the touch. If one rubs his hand over a russet fruit and it is smooth to the touch, this is rust-mite russet. However, if the russet is scabby and rough, resembling sandpaper, this is melanose.

TIME TO SPRAY

The damage done by the fungus which causes melanose is when the leaves, twigs and fruit are young. If one waits to spray until he sees melanose on his fruit, the damage is already done and his spraying will do no good in controlling the disease.

The leaves and twigs can be infected only while they are very young. After the leaves are from three to five weeks old they cannot be infected with this disease. Hence, the time to spray is when the leaves are young. The spray makes a coating over the fruit and leaves so that the fungus cannot infect them. Experiments conducted last season showed that, if the trees are sprayed from 10 to 20 days after two-thirds of the blooms have dropped, leaves, twigs and fruit will be protected from this disease.

WHAT SPRAY TO USE

Bordeaux-oil spray has been used for experimental purposes and has given good results. The following formula was used: Bluestone 3 pounds, rock lime 3 pounds (use only a good grade), water 50 gallons, and some good oil emulsion 3 quarts.

Mix the above ingredients in the following manner: Slake 50 pounds of rock lime in a barrel and add enough water to make 50 gallons of the solution. Hence, one gallon will contain one pound of lime. Suspend a sack containing 50 pounds of bluestone into the top of a barrel of water. After the bluestone has dissolved, take out the sack and add enough water to make 50 gallons of this second solution. Hence, one gallon of bluestone solution will contain one pound of bluestone.

Now take 3 gallons of the lime solution, pour it into a third barrel and add 22 gallons of water. Take 3 gallons of bluestone solution, pour it into a fourth barrel and add 22 gallons of water. Pour thru a strainer, the contents of the third and fourth barrels into the spray tank, at the same time stirring the two mixtures. After these solutions are well-mixed and while the agitator is still going, add 3 quarts of an oil emulsion. Always mix the solution in the above proportions regardless of the size of the spray tank. The solutions, when mixed in the tank, should be used the same day. The lime and bluestone solutions, kept separate in the barrels, will keep thru the spraying season.

HOW TO APPLY THE SPRAY

A power sprayer must be used and the pressure should not fall below 200 pounds. If the spray gun is used, the pressure should not fall below 250 pounds. To do good and thoro work, the use of spray rods is recommended.

CAUSE OF MELANOSE

Melanose on citrus fruits is caused by a fungus which lives in the dead branches and terminal twigs of the trees. During rainy seasons and heavy fogs the spores, or seed-like bodies of the fungus, are washed from the dead twigs onto the young leaves and fruit. These small seed-like bodies cause the melanose.

This is a preliminary report on melanose control. Experiments are being carried out to determine the best methods of controlling melanose by spraying with bordeaux oil.

This solution will kill friendly fungi as well as the harmful ones. Friendly fungi assist in keeping scale and whitefly in check. Therefore, it is advisable to watch the grove and spray for scale, if the scale insects are increasing in number. It is recommended that spraying for scale be done in May when the young are in the crawler stage.

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